

CHATTANOOGA TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 21st, 2016

Members Present: Mariah Prescott, Erica Lewis, Lisa Lemza, Sally Wencel, Hill Craddock, Glen Craig,

Members Absent: Craig Walker

Staff Present: Gene Hyde, Karna Levitt

EPB Representative: George Morgan - Absent

Guests: None

Mariah called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

The May, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written.

The items on the agenda were handled in the following manner:

1. Old Business.

A. Riverview Tree Preservation and Planting Initiative.

Gene reported that he contacted Mr. Bill Jones of the firm of Jones Raulston Title Company who will help develop a legal instrument and deed restriction to protect certain trees in the Riverview neighborhood. Gene remarked that other neighborhoods have shown an interest and that once the document is produced they, too, will use it. The TC opined that it would be a good idea for either the RPA or the Riverview neighborhood to present the finished product to City Council.

B. New TC Members. The TC was presented three nominees for consideration: Bruce Blohm and B.J. Absher. The vote was five for and one abstention. Mariah and Lisa will provide brief resume's for each of the nominees to forward to the Mayor's office for processing.

2. New Business

A. Operational Report. Gene reported that they have received 396 forestry service requests and have closed all except 9. Gene also reported that the seven-member Tennessee Forestry Commission will meet in Chattanooga on July 29th and Gene was asked to make a presentation and lead a brief field trip. Gene will have more to report in July as plans are firmed up. Gene also said that

he had been approached by Councilman Larry Grohn to evaluate trees and to make tree preservation recommendations on a parcel which fronts on Igou Gap Road. Gene sees this request as a positive and appreciates City Council's use of his professional knowledge and experience. Gene also reported that he has two crew vacancies in forestry operations: a tree trimmer and an equipment operator.

B. Landscape Architect's Report. Karna noted that Gary Hilbert is retiring soon and she will miss his support of green issues. She also reported that City Council will vote on the new Form Based Codes and it is unclear if any changes will be made.

3. Items discussed not on the Agenda

A. Hill said that he has seen a lot of small signs posted along roadways with the message: "English Ivy kills trees". Other TC members said that they have seen them as well and these signs have been around for years. Hill also reported that he has visited Linda Collins on Walden's Ridge and they have identified 70 species of trees there. The hope is that they can all be labeled and established as a State arboretum.

B. Mariah has obtained a list of City Parks from Gene and will be getting the list to all TC members with this mission: Take five or six of these parks and walk through them and see if there are any reasonable candidates to nominate for the Notable Tree Register.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 P.M

Action Items

A. All TC members are to visit local parks in search of good candidates for the Notable Tree Register.

B. Mariah and Lisa will contact Bruce Blohm and B.J. Absher to obtain resume' info to support their nominations to the Tree Commission.

C. Gene will have all TC members' term expiration dates by the next meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 19th at 4:00 P.M. in the DRC Room 2-A